

Use of Other Power Driven Mobility Devices in California State Parks

California State Parks is pleased to increase recreational opportunities for people with mobility disabilities by allowing the use of Other Power Driven Mobility Devices (OPDMDs) in areas where they can be operated safely, without posing risk of serious harm to natural and cultural resources, and in conformity with Federal land management laws and regulations.

In order to ensure that OPDMD operation does not pose significant safety risks nor fundamentally alter the nature of services, programs, and activities provided by California State Parks, all OPDMDs operated in state parks* must meet the standards below. A procedure for requesting a variance to allow operation of an OPDMD that does not meet the standards is described at the end of this document/page.

1. **Size:**
OPDMDs shall not be wider than 36" or longer than 48".
2. **Weight:**
The overall weight of the device and user(s) shall not exceed 550 pounds.
3. **Speed:**
OPDMDs shall not be operated at speeds in excess of 5 miles per hour. Devices capable of exceeding speeds of 5 mph will not be prohibited from use but individuals observed exceeding the speed limit will be subject to citation and penalties.
4. **Noise:**
OPDMDs shall not produce noise levels in excess of 70 decibels.
5. **Emissions:**
OPDMDs shall not exceed zero emissions during use.

* These standards do not apply to California Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Areas.

Areas of Authorized Use

OPDMDs which meet the above criteria will be allowed in the following locations within state park units:

- On signed and designated Class I accessible or multiple use trails.

- On controlled access roads that are open to multiple recreational use such as fire roads.
- Within campgrounds and picnic areas on designated accessible pathways.
- On exterior routes of travel designed for pedestrian use within developed public use areas.

Who can use OPDMDs

Notwithstanding OHV parks, the use of OPDMDs in California state parks is restricted to people with mobility disabilities as defined in §35.104 of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act. All users of OPDMDs must provide credible assurance that the mobility device is required because of their disability. Credible assurance may be provided by showing park staff a National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Access Pass or proof of assignment of any state's valid disabled parking placard or card assigned to the person who will be using the OPDMD. Individuals who provide only verbal representation, not contradicted by observable fact, that the device is required because of a mobility disability will not be denied the benefit of this program. However, persons who falsely represent themselves as disabled in order to use an OPDMD in California state parks will be cited.

Procedures for Requesting a Variance

Users of OPDMDs which do not meet the criteria for types of devices allowed or whose use is being requested in a location not listed under the areas of authorized use will not be allowed to use the device or the state park outdoor facility or route until a formal request for change of use is submitted in writing to the park for which the use is desired and approval of that request is granted in writing.

To inquire about specific areas in which OPDMD use is permitted, please contact the park directly.

Park phone numbers can be found at: <http://www.parks.ca.gov/parkindex/?tab=1>